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SOME

REASONS

AGAINST

Paying Tythes,

AND

Upholding that Miniſtry that doth Receive the ſame.

Written in Love to the Truth, and for the ſake thereof, and in Love to my Neighbours,

Stephen Smith.

Firſt,

CHriſt Jeſus he is Lord of Heaven and Earth, and hath Power over all Fleſh, by whom the World was made, who is Heir of all things, and hath right of Government in the Hearts and Conſciences of all People, and over all the

Kingdoms of Men, the Right of ordaining & appointing Miniſters being in him, and alſo in giving forth his Righteous Law and Commands in their Hearts, where he ought to reign, where his Miniſters ſo ordained of him are to wait, with their Minds ſtaid in his Light, to receive of him freely a Supply of Wiſdom and Power, and to communicate from the ſame freely, and to be contented with what Proviſion the Lord is pleaſed to make for them; and by him there being a Change of the Prieſthood under that Covenant given unto *Moſes* and the People of *Iſrael*, there is made of Neceſſity a Change alſo of the Law; and foraſmuch as the Prieſts in this Age, who are not ordained of Chriſt, do uphold that which the Lord hath changed, therefore we do deny them, and that which they claim for their Maintenance.

II. Theſe Prieſts being not ordained of Chriſt, nor appointed to that Office by him, they therefore do uſurp that Authority, the which doth of Right belong to Chriſt Jeſus, the which are preſumptious Sins, and therefore we do deny them.

III. Theſe Prieſts having denyed the Revelation of Chriſt's Spirit now adayes, and ſet up the Letter and Law without above the Spirit and Law within, by which its plain and evident, that they are Strangers to the great Love of God in his New Covenant, and being void of the Knowledge of the Gift of God to the World, they have nothing but Imaginations and Inventions of their own Brain-Study, and

and out of others Works and Labours, therefore we do deny them.

IV. They not being ordained of Chriſt they bring forth no pleaſant Fruit, as is evident, but being ordained of Man, being Man-made Miniſters, they are Men-pleaſers, ſo no Servants of Chriſt Jeſus, but of their own Bellies, and for the Sake thereof they are abominably greedy of filthy Lucre, and therefore we do deny them.

V. They being out of the Way of the Lord, and Strangers thereunto, therefore they can be no Guides therein, having ſet up Imaginations and Devices in their own Hearts, they follow them in defrauding People, therefore we deny them.

VI. Foraſmuch as Chriſt hath ſaid, *John* 10. *All that ever came before me are Thieves and Robbers*, or as it may be rendred, *All that go before him* (Now mind) *before* Abraham *was he was*, and before the Prophets were he was; ſo the true Prophets they did not go before him, they waited for the Signification of Chriſt's Spirit, which was in them, the which was their Foundation, and this was the Apoſtles Foundation, and the Believers in the Primitive Time were built upon the ſame; but the Thieves and Robbers were the falſe Prophets and Prieſts that came before him, who ſteal the true Prophets words and uſe them in their Divination for Money, and Rewards, and Preaching for Hire, the which were wicked Practices, teſtified, againſt and cryed out a-

gainſt by the true Prophets; among which wicked Practices we finding the Man-made Miniſters in this Age and Generation, who go before Chriſt, and being of that Number Chriſt Jeſus ſpoke againſt therefore do we deny them.

VII. All take notice, that the Teſtimony againſt Prieſts that preach for Hire is no new thing of twenty or thirty years ſtanding, as ſome do vainly imagine; thoſe Abominable Practices were teſtified againſt by the true Prophets; read *Micah* 3. *Iſaiah* 56. *Jer.* 5. *Ezek.* 13. *Hoſea* 6. and read Chriſt's Teſtimony againſt Hirelings, *John* 10. (and mind) all the Holy Men of God were and are of the ſame Mind. And for Prieſts and People now adayes to pretend to Goſpel-Order and Goſpel-Dayes, and to live in the ſame, and if not worſe Practices then the Falſe Prophets, Prieſts, Teachers and People, who were before the more powerful Manifeſtation of Chriſt in Fleſh, the Everlaſting Goſpel, *who is the End of the Law for Righteouſneſs to all that believe*; this is a very great Shame even to the Name of *Chriſtianity*, and the Falſe Teachers the Prieſts being the Leaders into theſe Abominations; therefore we do Deny them.

VIII. *Paul* an Apoſtle of Jeſus Chriſt, he did exhort the then Believers, To follow him as he was a Follower of Chriſt, who ever was and is a bleſſed Leader out of Tranſgreſſion, out of Sin, and therefore out of Strife and Contention; he taught and teaches to love Enemies, for this Cauſe was and is the

the Love of God in his Son manifeſt in Fleſh, even to condemn Sin in the Fleſh, and to deſtroy the Devils Works of Malice, Envy, Luſt, Pride, Exceſs, Covetouſneſs, Lying, Guile, Hypocriſie, Deceit, Fraud, Vain Worſhips, Vain Services, Perſecution, and all other Abominations that may be mentioned; the true and faithful Witneſs, even the Light of his Holy Spirit in Mankind, never did nor will aſſent unto any thing that is Evil. And foraſmuch as the Prieſts are led by another Spirit, and acted by another Spirit, as by their Fruits and Practices they are manifeſted, even to be led by the ſpirit of *Cain*, he being the firſt Perſecutor about Religion; and the Prieſts being in the ſame Steps of Perſecution, they may ſay if they will ſpeak truly, *Beloved, be you Followers of us as we are Followers of our Fore-Fathers*, Cain, *the Falſe Prophets and Teachers in Ages paſt*; they bringing forth the ſame Fruits, therefore of Neceſſity they muſt ſpring from the ſame corrupt Ground and Root; and therefore let all the Wiſe in Heart judge, whether we have not Good Cauſe to Deny them.

IX. It hath been ſo from the Beginning, that He that was born after the Fleſh perſecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even ſo it is now; & when we turned our Backs upon Ungodlineſs, & waited in the Grace of God, that we might live Godly and Righteouſly in this preſent Evil World, we did believe we might ſuffer by Unreaſonable Ungodly Men, who live exalted above the Grace of God, of which Number the Prieſts are chief; and therefore we do deny them.

X.

X. And whereas Chriſt Jeſus, who is Lord of the Sabboth, did above Sixteen Hundred Years ago ſet up the Everlaſting Worſhip in the Spirit and Truth, and directed all to take that for their Leader into all Truth, the Truth and bleſſed Effects whereof being witneſſed to the Praiſe of God this day, as it was in the primitive Time. And whereas the Man-made Miniſters of this Age and Generation, who are not ordained nor ſent of Chriſt Jeſus, do teach for Doctrine the Commands of Men, and ſo Worſhip in vain, and by their Traditions and Vain Cuſtoms they have excluded that Worſhip in Spirit and Truth, the which Chriſt Jeſus ſet up; therefore we do Deny them.

XI. Whereas the Man-made Miniſters now adays do make that their Plea for their Perſecution and Wickedneſs, *they have a Law*, ſo ſaid their Fore-Fathers, the *Scribes*, *Phariſees* and *Chief Prieſts*, who crucified Chriſt, they ſaid, *They had a Law*; and what Perſecutors about Religion ſince *Cain* had not ſome ſeeming Pretence and Covering? though indeed theſe in this Generation do excel in rare Arts and Coverings to hide their Wicked Bloody Spirit of Perſecution under; but he is riſen and come that ſees through them, and teaches his Followers to deny them; and therefore we do deny them.

XII. And we do commend the Reader for his full and compleat Satisfaction about the Ground and ſetting up of Tythes, ſince the Goſpel dayes, unto

a Book entituled, *The Great Caſe of Tythes Revived*, by *Francis Howgil*, who Dyed a Priſoner for the Teſtimony of Jeſus; in that Book are all Reaſonable Objections clearly anſwered, and there is clearly ſhewn, what a dark Night of Apoſtacy was over People when Tythes were ſet up by a Law, and how many Hundred Years it was after Chriſt before that groſs Ignorance was uſhered in, in making Laws to Perſecute and Compel about Tythes.

And unto all we do ſignifie, *That we have hopes in our Lord & Maſter, Chriſt Jeſus our Saviour, that he will maintain us by his Grace, and ſupply us out of his Fulneſs of Wiſdom and Power to live godly, ſoberly and righteouſly in this preſent life, giving no juſt Cauſe of Offence to any, but in all things to live an innocent harmleſs Life, keeping our Conſcience void of Offence, both before God and all men: And if any that may be among us, and profeſs to own our Principle, ſhould do otherwiſe then Right and Juſt, let none be ſo raſh as to condemn our juſt Principle, or thoſe that live in it, becauſe of the Unfaithfulneſs of ſome that may make ſome Profeſſion of it, and not live up to it: And we do pray for all in Authority, that the Lord of Heaven and Earth may pour out his Spirit of Judgment & Wiſdom upon them, that they may be opened, and the Nobility of their Underſtandings may be cleared from Darkneſs and Error, that they may diſcern between the Precious and the Vile, and that they may be for the Puniſhment of them that do Evil, and for the Praiſe of them that do well.*

The 16th of the 1ſt
Moneth, 1676.

THE END.